

Steam Shower Buyers Guide

After supplying steam showers for over 11 years, Maya Bath considers itself one of the steam shower experts within the industry. Maya Bath understands the importance of making the correct buying decision when deciding on a new steam shower. With an abundance of models available in the marketplace, it's important to know what to look for and certain things you should avoid.

Let Maya Bath make the notes for you! The following is essential advice to read and check before you buy your new steam shower. Steam shower prices vary massively both online and on the high street, but it's important not to just settle for the cheapest unit available.

The following guide is designed to give you an insight into some of the factors you need to be aware of when shopping for your new steam shower. If you have any questions for our experts, don't hesitate to drop us an email through our [contact page](#).

Acrylic Quality & Finish

Reinforcement – To cut costs many factories use a composite material, combining ABS on the inside with acrylic PMMA sheets on the outside.

Check its Color – An easy test to tell a good quality acrylic from a bad one is by its color and flame-retardation. Cheap materials mixed in the acrylic can cause the color to have too bright a white finish and catch fire more easily. In addition, this low quality, high brightness acrylic is likely to clash in your bathroom.

Price – Some factories use acrylic that costs just \$870 per tonne, some others use acrylic at \$1,090-\$1,160 per tonne. In fact, the acrylic Maya Bath uses costs \$1,815 per tonne. This higher quality acrylic will last longer and also fade less over time.

Fiberglass and Reinforcement – Be careful of cheap fiberglass that uses a high degree of resin. This discolors easily devaluing and weakening the steam enclosure. All of our bases and most panels are acrylic with 3-4 layers of fiberglass to reinforce the more vulnerable areas (e.g., base, under seat, bathtub). To cut costs a manufacturer may use just 1 or 2 layers of fiberglass reinforcement.

Aluminium Framing And Columns

Are they aluminum? – Check that the profile that holds the glass is not simply plastic with a metal coating or paint finish. The profiles coating may come off and is definitely not as strong.

What is the profiles thickness? – To save costs some manufacturers have a 0.5mm thick aluminum profile and whilst being weaker is also more prone to dents. Maya Bath use 1.2mm-1.6mm aluminum profiles.

Aluminum Quality – Some companies use recycled aluminum and perhaps a composite of other metals to create aluminum frames. This affects the aluminum's hardness and likelihood of being dented.

Stainless Steel Structural Frame Support – The strength and durability of the support frame is essential as it forms the foundation of your shower or bathtub. Typically, a stainless steel frame will offer the optimum support as opposed to a wooden structure.

Tempered Safety Glass

Thickness – Typically, it is suggested that a tempered safety glass of 5-6mm would provide optimum safety, below which the risk of breakage increase. As standard, Maya Bath uses 6mm or 8mm thick tempered safety glass on all steam showers.

Edge Protection – The risk of tempered glass breakage heightens if knocked at its edge or corners. Therefore, the glass edge should be protected within the aluminum profile. It is important to note that tempered glass is weak at the edges when constructing an all glass unit. Avoid hitting the edges or corners of the glass panel during installation to prevent accident.

Break Test – One safety standard states that a 120mm square piece of tempered glass should break into 45 individual pieces. Maya Bath's tempered glass surpasses this and will break into 60 small pieces with no sharp edges. The smaller the pieces the higher the grade of safety glass used.

Sealant, Water Flow & Pipework

Pipe Clips – To minimize the risk of water leakage, stainless steel clips provide stronger and longer lasting protection to water leakage over the plastic clips used by some manufacturers.

Silicone free – Some manufacturers claim that their steam showers are entirely silicone free. From our first hand experience with steam showers, a sealant free shower can still leak water if water is applied to particular areas. Check with your supplier what "silicone free" actually means, asking how it works and what's required to be watertight. You could prevent a water damage disaster that could cost thousands.

Valves – The flow, temperature control and water pressure within the shower will be valve controlled. To ensure the longer life of those valves check they are made from ceramic as opposed to plastic which will deteriorate over time.

Water Testing – Water leakage can be costly and a hassle. Make sure your shower has been fully water tested before shipping. Ensure your installer fully checks every feature, all pipework, tightens jubilee clips, jets and electrics while running a full water test to check for any leaks or drips.

Thermostatic Temperature Valve – As a safety consideration and to reduce the risk of scalding a thermostatic valve will offer a non-fluctuating water temperature. Every modern shower should be equipped with this safety valve that will eliminate those huge fluctuations in water temperature while allowing you to select your desired temperature. Some thermostatic valves also provide a temperature restrictor for the safety of younger users.

Product Testing & Durability

Corrosion Testing – The last thing you want is to receive your shiny new steam shower and then find that after a couple of months the chrome plating starts to deteriorate and peel off. Look for a company who will test the anti-corrosion level and protective layer of the materials used with salt spray equipment.

Door Rollers – Door rollers or runners often go unnoticed when they are functioning perfectly. However, if misaligned or damaged they can become a headache. Although, seemingly a simple part – quality should be evident in the detail. For example, Maya Bath door runners are tested to pass over 100,000 consecutive uses.

Operational Testing – The best way to check that both electrics (e.g., lighting, radio, jets) are fully operational and water does not leak is to assemble and fully test a product before it leaves the factory. Why not check whether each individual product has been fully water tested with an electrical supply.

Stainless Steel Door Handles and fixtures – Beware of plastic fixtures that have a chrome coating. These are liable to wear away more quickly and needless to say don't give a quality feel.

Steam Leakage – Have a look at the gap between the door and the base. The amount of steam leakage varies greatly between manufacturers and whilst you will usually have a little leakage you want to keep this to a minimum. As used with Maya Bath steam showers check for good seals that are designed to reduce the escape of steam.

Weight Test – Simply put: the thicker the acrylic/ABS, glass, aluminum and stainless steel frame (is it a wood or stainless steel frame?) the greater the amount of material required in manufacturing. In addition, solid stainless steel fixtures are far heavier than their plastic counterparts. Not only will this result in a sturdier, stronger product but consequently the weight of the combined delivery boxes will be heavier.

For peace of mind, why not check the unpackaged and installed weight of the product in which you are interested?

Electrics & Safety

Residual Current Device – Water and electricity simply don't mix – When dealing with these two elements safety is paramount. A residual current device or RCD is a device that will shut-off the steam shower as soon as a malfunction is detected. When using a 4KW steam generator or 220V product this is essential to guarantee the safety of the user.

Certification – Check for the ETL and CE safety mark, conformity to which means that the essential health and safety requirements set out in US Directives are met. In addition ISO14001, an internationally accepted accreditation for an Environmental Management System (EMS) and ISO9001:2000, which identifies factors that a manufacturer must fulfill if it is to achieve customer satisfaction through consistent products and services that meet customer expectations.

Electrical Components – A steam shower often contains a complex electrical box that controls steam production, radio, CD, telephone, massage jets and many other functions. Some manufacturers do not test the electric box used within their products, while others may do for just 1-2 hours. In contrast, each function within the Maya Bath electrical control box is run for 72 consecutive hours to ensure the reliability and durability of each electrical component used.

Installation & Delivery

Free Delivery – These may be hidden extras, not shown to give the impression of a lower selling price. A steam shower is both bulky and heavy and delivery could add as much as \$500-\$700+ to your final price. Make sure you buy from a company who offers you transparent pricing so you know exactly how much you're paying.

Part preparation – It's important to check what's required to install your steam shower before it arrives, ensuring that you have any necessary parts on site to avoid any delays. Some companies charge extra for supply pipes, drainage parts, and additional pieces crucial to the installation which can be frustrating – Know exactly what you're getting for your money. Maya Bath Steam Showers come with all parts needed to install and use the units.

Stock – To cut costs some companies will hold very limited or no stock and simply start manufacturing a steam shower on receipt of your payment. Typically, this will result in a delay of approximately 6-12 weeks until your steam shower is ready. Make sure you check availability sooner rather than later. If you can't have your steam shower within a matter of days, it may be the case that your supplier doesn't even have the unit in the country.

Interior Height – A costly or uncomfortable mistake may lead to you or your guests not being able to stand up straight inside your shower! This is an important design requirement and one which some manufacturers may overlook. Please be assured that each Maya Bath steam shower has an interior height of at least 6.3' or higher.

Warranty & After Sales

Warranty – Be sure to review the warranty included with your new steam shower with a careful eye. Check how long you're covered for and what's actually covered under the warranty.

After Sales – Maya Bath maintains a high stock level of all parts used on all products at our US based distribution warehouse. In the unlikely event of any part failing, you can expect a swift response and resolution to the problem. Our technical support team has been working with steam showers for over eleven years, so we are aware of most common problems and how to solve them quickly. If you find that your supplier does not stock spares in the US, you could be waiting for weeks, even months before a replacement part arrives.

Design & Features

Product features – Once you are happy with the build quality you will want to double check the shower you have chosen provides the features you require. Most steam showers offer a handheld shower, overhead shower and body jets as standard. A feature such as ozone sterilization that will purify and kill bacteria after using the unit may be a differentiating factor. Other differentiating factors may be aromatherapy, foot massage.

Product design – New designs and features such as LED lighting can demonstrate how active a supplier is within the marketplace. If their designs and features seem old and dated, they may not be very active as a company. This could cause problems if you need after sales assistance a few years down the line. Perhaps ask a supplier if they have any new designs coming out, to help demonstrate their activity.

Company background

Trust the Brand – With many options in the market it is important to buy from a reputable brand so as to ensure that you get the necessary customer care and after service support. Maya Bath receives telephone calls on a regular basis, from people who require parts for unknown steam showers that have malfunctioned or proven faulty. If the brand is unheard of, it's simply impossible to find parts that are compatible.

Trading Time – There are many resources available on the internet to determine how long a company has been trading. By law, a company must supply their registered company details to a customer so that the customer can perform necessary background checks before buying. If the company doesn't have a company number, they may not have been trading for long. It may be the case that they won't be around in two years time when you need a replacement part. Maya Bath is entering its 12th year of trading and in this time 12 prominent steam shower suppliers have come and gone.